And make them dread it to the doer's thrift [7]. But Imogen is your own : Do your best wills,

« .-----each elder worse; '*

The last deed is certainly not the oldest, but Shakspeare calls the *deed* of an *elder* man an *elder deed.* JOHNSON.

" — each elder worse;" L e. where corruptions are, they grow with years, and the oldest sinner is the greatest. You, Gods, permit some to proceed in iniquity, and the older such are, the more their crime. TOLLET.

I believe our author must answer for this inaccuracy, and that he inadvertently considered the latter evil deed as the elder; having probably some general notion in his mind of a quantity of evil commencing with our first parents, and gradually accumulating in process of time by a repetition of crimes, MALONE.

? And make them DREAD IT to the doer's thrift,] The divinity schools have not furnished juster observations on the conduct of Providence, than Posthumus gives us here in his private reflections. You gods, says he, act in a different manner with your different creatures :

" You snatch some hence for little faults ;
that's love^
" To have them fall no more:—"

Others, says our poet, you permit to live on, to multiply and increase in crimes:

" And make them *dread it,* to the doer's thrift," Here is a relative without an antecedent substantive; which is a breach of grammar. We must certainly read:

c* And make them *dreaded* to the doer's thrift." i. e. others you permit to aggravate one crime with more; which enormities not only make them revered and dreaded, but turn in other kinds to their advantage. Dignity, respect, and profit, accrue to them from crimes committed with impunity. THEOBALD. This emendation is followed by Sir T. Hanmer. Dr. War-burton reads, I know not whether by the printers negligence :

" And make them *dread* to the doer's thrift." There seems to be no very satisfactory sense yet offered. I read, but with hesitation,—

c* And make them *deeded* to the doers' thrift." The word *deeded* I know not indeed where to find; but Shakspeare has, in another sense, *undeeded* in Macbeth :

"---------—------my sword
" I sheath again
undeeded" I will try again,

and read thus:

tf ♠ others you permit
" To second ills with ills, each other worse,
" And make them *trade* it to the doer's thrift," *Trade* and *thrift* correspond. Our author plays with *trade,* as it signifies a lucrative vocation, or a frequent practice. So Isabella says,